

apply to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to have health providers certified and given immunity from malpractice claims.

This small provision could be a big help to the uninsured and those who count on free clinics for health care. The problem is, this provision of HIPAA has been overlooked and regulations for this section—detailing how the legislation should be implemented—were never written.

I am sending a letter to Secretary Thompson calling on him to get those regulations written and published as soon as possible. This should not be difficult. Legislation passed in 1992, which extended the Tort Claims Act coverage to volunteers in community health centers, can serve as a model.

Congress did the right thing in 1996 in recognizing this problem, but we need to finish the job. Two things need to happen now. We need those regulations published, and Congress needs to appropriate funding for the provision.

This will not solve the problems of the more than 40 million Americans without health insurance, but it sure could make a big difference in making care more accessible. It could make a big difference in the lives of the many health professionals who want to give back to their communities.

I again want to urge Secretary Thompson today to get these regulations published as soon as possible. For my part, I intend to stay on the job to assure his Department has funding for this provision.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, July 24, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,724,984,658,043.75, five trillion, seven hundred twenty-four billion, nine hundred eighty-four million, six hundred fifty-eight thousand, forty-three dollars and seventy-five cents.

One year ago, July 24, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,668,098,000,000, five trillion, six hundred sixty-eight billion, ninety-eight million.

Five years ago, July 24, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,173,226,000,000, five trillion, one hundred seventy-three billion, two hundred twenty-six million.

Ten years ago, July 24, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,551,395,000,000, three trillion, five hundred fifty-one billion, three hundred ninety-five million.

Fifteen years ago, July 24, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,071,116,000,000, two trillion, seventy-one billion, one hundred sixteen million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,653,868,658,043.75, three trillion, six hundred fifty-three billion, eight hundred sixty-eight million, six hundred fifty-eight thousand, forty-three dollars and seventy-five cents during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JEFFREY A. WAITE

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding soldier who has distinguished himself in his service to our Nation. Colonel Jeffrey A. Waite will take off his uniform for the last time this month as he retires from the National Guard on July 31st, 2001, following 32 years of service.

Colonel Waite is a fifth generation Missourian who makes our State proud. He began his career by enlisting in the Missouri Army National Guard in 1969 and continued to excel as he climbed through the ranks to Colonel. He imparted his love of the State and to the military to his son, who is now the sixth generation of Waite's to serve our Nation's military. He is a proud Missourian and American.

Colonel Waite completed his initial training at Ft. Bragg, NC and Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD in the spring of 1970 and was commissioned through the Missouri Military Academy Officer Candidate School as a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery in 1972. He holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Southwest Missouri State College and a master of science in business administration from Boston University. In addition, his military education includes the Ordinance Officer Basic and Advanced courses, U.S. Marine Corps Staff Course, U.S. Army Command and General Staff Course, the Air War College, and the Army War College.

Throughout his career, Colonel Waite has held a variety of positions at nearly every level of the Army National Guard. He entered active duty with the National Guard "Captains to Europe" program where he served abroad in Giessen, Germany with the 19th Maintenance Battalion as an Armament Maintenance Officer and Battalion Logistics Officer. Colonel Waite is also to be recognized for his service as Assistant Professor of Military Science, Hofstra University, an important program for developing the soldiers of our future.

Throughout his career, Colonel Waite's level of commitment and service has been recognized and rewarded through numerous decorations and awards. Colonel Waite has demonstrated the utmost patriotism and dedication and has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Colonel Waite's retirement represents a loss to the both the National Guard Bureau and the Department of Defense. Throughout his career, Colonel Waite made innumerable long-term positive contributions to both the military and our Nation. On behalf of the citizens of Missouri and a grateful Nation, we wish Colonel Jeffrey A. Waite, his wife Lori, and four children all the best for a happy retirement. •

##### TRIBUTE TO MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEDICAL CLINIC

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, right now in my home state of Vermont, a very special institution, the Mountain Valley Medical Clinic, MVMC, in Londonderry, VT, is celebrating 25 years of service. Rural clinics such as Mountain Valley, play a critical role in delivering health care, especially in States as rural as Vermont.

Twenty-five years ago, it was not unusual for communities such as Londonderry, to receive health care through a single practitioner, who serviced the region. In 1976, as Londonderry's sole practitioner, Dr. Elizabeth Pingree, was retiring, the impending lack of health care in the area became a real concern. A group of involved citizens recognized that people would either be forced to drive great distances to be seen by a physician, or they would go without care. The entire community responded by coming together to create the Mountain Valley Medical Clinic.

The founding fathers, and mothers, of Mountain Valley recognized the rapidly expanding need for improved and broader health care services in the area. With tireless energy, enthusiasm and dedication, these key individuals succeeded in generating widespread support throughout the neighboring communities. They raised funds, developed plans, created a board of volunteers, and opened a state-of-the-art, comprehensive, health care facility to serve area residents and visitors. Additionally, they created an infrastructure that served all citizens regardless of their ability to pay.

Since opening its doors in 1976, more than 300,000 patients have visited this clinic for care. Over the recent decade, more than 11,000 per year have sought medical assistance. Much of the cost of the care has been curtailed by Medicare, Medicaid, or provided without reimbursement. Staying true to its mission, the dedicated staff and volunteer Board of Directors balanced financial losses, each and every year, with the generous support of the community.

As a model rural health care facility, Mountain Valley reminds us that bigger, faster, cheaper, and fancier, do not necessarily translate to better health care. In fact, many part-time residents in this community consider Mountain Valley to be their primary care provider, even though, or perhaps because, they reside in large cities up and down the east coast. I wish other institutions could follow the example of Mountain Valley Health Clinic.

As this noteworthy institution celebrates its 25th anniversary, it remains one of a kind. It is unique among its peers throughout the country for its philosophy and independence, but most of all, because it is the product of so many remarkable people and ideas. It is truly part of the communities it serves. Residents and visitors in the Mountain Valley service area have much to be proud of, and grateful for, with the steadfast medical care given